

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dominick L. Mastri et al.

Docket: 1695 CIP CON 3
(203-1544 CIP CON III)

Serial No.: 09/625,886

Examiner: Scott A. Smith

Filed: July 26, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3721

For: SURGICAL STAPLER

Dated: July 19, 2004

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's continuing duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the disclosures cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application.

The patents listed were previously cited and submitted in U.S. Application Serial Nos. 08/520,202, filed August 28, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,762,256 and Serial No. 08/546,253, filed October 20, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,782,396. Each of these applications

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2004.

Dated: July 19, 2004

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were relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)(1) and 35 U.S.C. §120, copies of the patents can be obtained in the above-identified parent applications.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

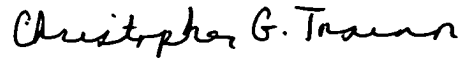
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably

distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
203-1544 CIPCONIII
(1695 CIP CON3)SERIAL NO.
09/625,886INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANTS

Dominick L. Mastri et al.

FILING DATE
July 26, 2000GROUP ART UNIT
3721

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,779,130	7/14/1998	Alesi et al.			
	5,706,997	01/1998	Green et al.			
	5,690,269	11/1997	Bolanos, et al.			
	5,653,374	08/1997	Young et al.			
	5,615,820	04/1997	Viola			
	5,507,426	04/1996	Young et al.			
	5,487,500	01/1996	Knodel et al.			
	5,486,185	01/1996	Frietas et al.			
	5,484,451	01/1996	Akopov et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	0656188	06/1995	European Pat. Off.				
	0591946	04/1994	European Pat. Off.				
	0589306	03/1994	European Pat. Off.				
	0484677	05/1992	European Pat. Off.				

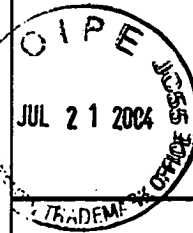
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 203-1544 CIPCONIII (1695 CIP CON3)		SERIAL NO.: 09/625,886	
 <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p>		APPLICANTS: Dominick L. Mastri et al.					
		FILING DATE: July 26, 2000		GROUP ART UNIT: 3721			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,474,566	12/1995	Alesi et al.			
		5,467,911	11/1995	Tsuruta et al.			
		5,465,895	11/1995	Knodel et al.			
		5,433,721	07/1995	Hooven et al.			
		5,415,335	05/1995	Knodel, Jr.			
		5,415,334	05/1995	Williamson, IV et al.			
		5,397,046	03/1995	Savage et al.			
		5,376,095	12/1994	Ortiz et al.			
		5,332,142	07/1994	Robinson et al.			
		5,326,013	07/1994	Green et al.			
		5,318,221	06/1994	Green et al.			
		5,312,023	05/1994	Green et al.			
		5,307,976	05/1994	Olson et al.			
		5,141,144	08/1992	Foslien et al.			
		5,129,570	07/1992	Schulze et al.			
		5,111,987	05/1992	Moeinzadeh et al.			
		5,083,695	01/1992	Foslein et al.			
		5,074,454	12/1991	Peters			
		5,065,929	11/1991	Schulze et al.			
		5,040,715	08/1991	Green et al.			
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
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